

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-03 SSO-00 SY-04

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 /033 W
----- 032834

R 051000Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 667

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (ROBERT GIBSON), LA
SUBJECT: W/W ROBERT GIBSON

REF: VIENTIANE 6569

1. IN LIGHT OF CONTINUING PROCEDURAL DELAYS IN CASE, DCM CALLED ON MINISTER OF JUSTICE KHAMKING SOUVANLASY. HE EXPRESSED EMBASSY'S CONTINUING CONCERN OVER MANNER CASE HAS BEEN HANDLED. HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN SERIOUS VIOLATION OF LAO LAW, NOTABLY GIBSON HAD BEEN HELD WITHOUT CHARGE FOR THREE WEEKS, NO AUTOPSY OF ASSAILANTS' BODIES HAD BEEN MADE AND THERE STILL HAD BEEN NO RECONSTRUCTION OF THE INCIDENT.

2. MINISTER HAD ACCURATELY GUESSED PURPOSE OF VISIT AND HAD REVIEWED CASE AND DISCUSSED IT WITH JUDGE. HE SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED JUDGE TO PRESS FOR AN ANSWER TO LAWYER'S REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE SUPPORTING HOMICIDE CHARGE. HE READILY ADMITTED THAT NO AUTOPSY HAVING BEEN MADE, POLICE WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE SUCH EVIDENCE. HE ALSO KNEW THAT IMMIGRATION POLICE HAD FORMALLY FOUND THAT GIBSON HAD VALID RESIDENCE PERMIT AT TIME OF HIS ARREST. THUS, ONLY VALID CHARGE WAS ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ARMS WHICH MINISTER DID NOT CONSIDER SERIOUS. CONSEQUENTLY, MINISTER ASKED DCM TO CALL HIM BACK EARLY NEXT WEEK AT WHICH TIME HE HOPED

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TO BE IN A POSITION TO FILE THE CASE ("CLASSE L'AFFAIRE").

HE WAS APPARENTLY EVEN PREARED TO ALLOW GIBSONH L
REMAIN IN LAOS EVEN THOUGH GIBSON, WE GATHER, WANTS
TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AS SOON AS HE IS RELEASED.

3. WE SHALL INFORM GIBSON'S SON ALLAN THAT WE ARE
HOPEFUL THAT WE MAY OBTAIN HIS FATHER'S RELEASE.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI06850
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740246-0263
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740971/aaaachsy.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VIENTIANE 6569
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: W/W ROBERT GIBSON
TAGS: CASC, LA, (ROBERT GIBSON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005